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9 July 1981

Talking Points on the Senior Review Panel

1. The Panel was organized in the fall of 1978 to meet a perceived need for an independent, collegial and substantive review of major intelligence products of both the Intelligence Community and the National Foreign Assessment Center (NFAC) in CIA. Ambassador William Leonhart and [] were recruited at that time for the Panel by Dr. Robert R. Bowie, then Deputy Director, National Foreign Assessment (DD/NFA) and D/NFAC. The Panel's current charter was developed during this period and was published on 11 December 1978 (copy attached).

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[] joined the Panel in January 1979 and served until September 1980; he was replaced by [] in October 1980. [] joined in February 1980 and the Panel has consisted of four members since that time.

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2. The Panel's charter is a broad one which permits the exercise of many wide ranging functions. Although the Panel organizationally is placed in the DD/NFA's office and administratively supported by NFAC, its members are appointed by the DCI and may carry out such tasks as the DCI desires. In practice, however, the Panel has not as a group been so broadly engaged as the charter might imply, but has functioned principally within these general categories of activities.

- a. Comments on interagency papers
- b. Appraisals of past streams of intelligence reporting
- c. Post-mortems of Intelligence Community performance
- d. Suggestions regarding intelligence coverage and overall production planning
- e. Evaluation of intelligence products
- f. Suggestions regarding the intelligence process

3. Comments on interagency papers These have involved numerous memoranda commenting on over one hundred NIEs, SNIEs, and IIMs at various stages of preparation beginning with a concept paper. About two-thirds of these assessments concerned an individual country while the others were of a regional or topical nature. For example, the Panel recently commented on the following:

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apparently written about 1 June 1981 on that paper are also attached.)

8. Suggestions regarding the intelligence process The Panel has submitted a few papers on the subject, including one on the theory and practice of NIEs, SNIEs and IIMs; and one on the comparative advantage and disadvantage of interagency and NFAC estimates.

9. In addition to the collective activities described above, Panel members have been asked from time to time to take on ad hoc individual tasks associated with NIC or NFAC activities. Individual members have also been asked to serve on NIC review panels considering draft interagency papers.

Attachments:

a/s